Call for Papers

Third International Meeting of the Avicenna Study Group
(Trier 2020)

Surveying the summae:
Comparisons and Contrasts among Avicenna’s Eight Main Works

03–05 June 2020
at Trier University
Trier, Germany

The conference will reinitiate the format of the Avicenna Study Group, which after two successful meetings (2001 and 2002) and accompanying volumes (2003 and 2004) was not continued after David C. Reisman’s untimely passing.

Fifteen papers will cover different philosophical disciplines (e.g., logic, physics, psychology, metaphysics) across the eight main works of Avicenna (al-Ḥikma al-ʿArūḍiyya, ʿUyūn al-ḥikma, al-Hidāya, al-Šifāʾ, al-Naḡāt, Dānešnāme-ye ʿAlāʾī, al-Ḥikma al-mašriqiyya, al-Išārāt wa-l-tanbihāt). The relations between these eight works, their intended readership and Avicenna’s intentions in them alongside his style, terminology, and arguments as well as his personal and scientific development currently are perhaps the most important set of themes and issues in scholarship on Avicenna’s thought and philosophy.

It is not necessary that proposed papers explore a certain topic through all of these eight works. Instead, the papers should provide rigorous and innovative explorations or case studies of various sorts, investigating and comparing at least two or three of these eight works, so that during the conference the participants will gather a better understanding of the different styles of these works and, ultimately, of Avicenna’s own approach to philosophy.

The papers could provide, for instance, thematical comparisons of the content of different works, philological examinations of their vocabulary and style, comparisons of their structures and tables of contents, or logical analyses of (evolving) arguments. Possible questions addressed and/or answered in the papers may resemble the following examples, which are given here merely for inspiration:

- What does Dānešnāme-ye ʿAlāʾī offer that al-Naḡāt does not offer?
- Are crucial topics from al-Šifāʾ missing in al-Išārāt wa-l-tanbihāt and al-Ḥikma al-mašriqiyya?
- What is the structure of al-Hidāya compared to ʿUyūn al-ḥikma?
• Is there a discernible development in certain topics between early works (e.g. *al-Ḥikma al-ʿArūḍiya*) and arguably later/late works (e.g. *al-Išārāt wa-l-tanbīhāt*)?
• What are the differences in the treatment of the “categories” in these main works?
• Does Avicenna’s approach to the soul as an object of inquiry develop or change in the course of his career?
• Does Avicenna stay consistent in the use of his terminology throughout his life? What about the terminology in *Dānešnāme-ye ʿAlāʾī*?
• Are there certain arguments in Avicenna’s works which are substantially reworked or even corrected in later works?

As with the first two meetings of the Avicenna Study Group, the **proceedings of the conference will be published**. All contributors are expected to prepare their papers after the conference for inclusion in the volume prior to the following – fourth – meeting of the Avicenna Study Group in 2022.

The conference will have fifteen slots for presentations, **of which six are open to the call for papers**. Early career submissions and submissions from members of underrepresented groups within (history of) philosophy are welcome and encouraged. For the remaining nine slots, the following experts have already confirmed their contribution:

- Asad Q. Ahmed (University of California, Berkeley)
- Wahid Amin (Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham)
- Tommaso Alpina (LMU Munich)
- Amos Bertolacci (IMT School of Advanced Studies, Lucca)
- Silvia Di Vincenzo (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)
- Nadja Germann (University of Freiburg)
- Dimitri Gutas (Yale University, New Haven)
- Olga Lizzini (VU Amsterdam)
- Jon McGinnis (University of Missouri – St. Louis)

Please submit a short **abstract of 300–500 words about your planned presentation together with a CV** via email to Andreas Lammer by 30 November 2019. Selected participants will be informed by 31 January 2020. Costs for travel and accommodation will be covered. Submissions should include the following information:

- Full name and preferred email address
- Institutional affiliation
- Career stage

Each presentation slot will have 45 minutes available plus 30 minutes for discussion. The preferred main language of both the conference and the proceedings is English.

**Contact Info (for submissions and further questions):**
JProf. Dr. Andreas Lammer
Junior Professorship of Arabic Philosophy, Culture, and History
FB I: Philosophie
Universität Trier
Universitätsring 15
D-54296 Trier
GERMANY
Tel.: +49 (0) 651 / 201-2338
URL: [https://www.uni-trier.de/index.php?id=65686&L=2](https://www.uni-trier.de/index.php?id=65686&L=2)